

City Charter Group Won't Meet Deadline

Torrance

Press-Herald

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Paint Store Robbed

Two gunmen robbed a Torrance paint store late Thursday afternoon and escaped with about \$145 after slugging a clerk.

Police said the robbery occurred about 5:30 p.m. at the Hughes Paint Store, 23000 Hawthorne Blvd.

Clarence Trumble, an 18-year-old clerk from Torrance, was treated at Little Company of Mary Hospital for a laceration over his left eye.

TRUMBLE told police two men entered the store about 5:40 Thursday afternoon. One of the men displayed a gun and told the clerk, "Let's have the money in the register."

The second suspect circled around behind the clerk and leaned against a counter, it was reported.

Trumble told officers he was struck, apparently before the cash register was opened. He said he remembered nothing after he was struck.

THE SUSPECT who displayed the gun was described as in his late 20s or early 30s, about 6-foot-2, weighing between 150 and 195 pounds. He wore a green windbreaker jacket, black slacks, and had light brown hair, witnesses said.

The second man, in his early 30s, wore a green sweater and white pants.

Burglary, Car Theft Arrests

A car cruising slowly through the Del Amo Center parking lot aroused police suspicions late Tuesday.

A routine investigation led to the arrest of the car's driver and passenger, Stephen Douglas Johnson, 18, of 2304 W. 230th St., and Robert Coburn, 19, of El Cajon.

The two were charged with car theft when a check revealed the car was registered to an owner in Sunnyvale. Also added to charges was felony burglary, when police found an unattached car stereo in the vehicle. Wire cutters and pliers were also found in the car, police said.

Police Nab Marijuana Suspect

Police have arrested 20-year-old James M. Cholley of 2404 W. 164th St. on charges of possession of marijuana and dangerous drugs.

Police said they saw Cholley driving at a high rate of speed from a car wash at 16th and Daphne Streets late Tuesday, and hailed him to the side of the road.

When police began to search the suspect, he turned and ran, and was forcibly apprehended. Police said they found a plastic bag of what appeared to be marijuana under Cholley's clothing. In the car's seat stuffing, police found a bag of 12 white tablets resembling benzadrine.

Cancel Meeting

Torrance councilmen will observe Christmas Eve with their families, not at work in the City Council Chambers.

Councilmen have cancelled Tuesday's regularly scheduled meeting and set a special session for Monday, Dec. 30, at 8 p.m.



BOYS CAMP BENEFIT . . . North High student, PTA, and faculty representatives package sports equipment for presentation to County Probation Director Morey D. Kessler, who will distribute the gifts to inmates at Camp Miller. Shown are (from left) Mrs. Elroy Wittrock, North High PTA president; Kris Kobe, 16, of the student council; Kessler; Miss Mary Montgomery, student activities director; and Jim Jones, 17, of the Letterman's Club. Freshman through senior classes at North High each donated \$20 toward the purchase of weight lifting equipment, basketballs, footballs, ping pong gear, and a radio for the camp. Students also donated more than 200 gifts for the boys. (Press-Herald Photo)

Christmas Opera Slated At El Camino Auditorium

The Christmas musical "Amahl and the Night Visitors" will be presented by the El Camino College Chorale in the college auditorium tonight and tomorrow. Tonight's performance will be at 7 p.m. The second performance will be presented at 11 a.m. tomorrow. Reserved seats are available for \$1. Youth through high school age will be admitted for 50 cents.

The one-hour Christmas classic, composed by John Carl Menotti, tells the story of a crippled boy who lives in poverty with his mother. One night the Three Kings, on their way to Bethlehem to pay homage to the newborn Christ Child, stop for shelter at the crude house where Amahl and his mother live.

THE HEART-warming classic is the first such opera commissioned for television performance. NBC has made "Amahl and the Night Visitors" an annual Christmas special for the past 17 years.

Under the direction of Mrs. Jane Hardester, students have been working on musical arrangements since the beginning of the semester. Leading the cast as Amahl is Constance Kupa, with Dorothy Newhall portraying Amahl's mother. Staging for the production is under the direction of Russell Pyle.

The Three Kings will be portrayed by Lon Green as Caspar, Dale Hobson as Melchior and Richard Harris as Balthasar. Members of the Chorale will be featured as the Shepherds.

Mrs. Edith Dahlen, former counselor at Hillside Elementary School, has been promoted to the position of vice principal. She will divide her time between Newton Elementary and Riviera Elementary Schools.

Affiliated with Torrance Unified School District for the past 12 years, Mrs. Dahlen taught at Sepulveda Elementary School before going to Hillside School two years ago.

A native of Los Angeles, the new vice principal received her bachelor's degree from Long Beach State College and her master's degree from the University of Southern California. He is a member of Pi Lambda Theta, the national honorary education association, and the USC Honorary Association for Women in Education.

PRIOR to entering the field of education, she was a professional model for four years, was assistant to a Beverly Hills management consultant for one year, and was in private business for a year.

Married to Edward J. Dahlen, a Los Angeles educator, she has resided in Torrance for the past 17 years. She was a charter member of the Torrance Cooperative Nursery, and is presently affiliated with the First Methodist Church, the American Association of University Women, the American Field Service, and the YMCA.

From Automobiles 'Get Tough' Policy on Stereo Thefts Adopted

By NATALIE HALL, Press-Herald Staff Writer

Police have issued a stern warning to Torrance teenagers: don't buy car stereos off the street. It's a good way to land in jail.

With an average of 250 car stereos being stolen in Torrance each month, local police are starting to view the problem with increased concern.

"Everybody has a touch of larceny in them!" quips Police Detective Keith Mason, who with his partner Brent Scott, takes charge of the auto burglary detail at the Torrance Police Station.

BUT THE urge to buy an item at a fraction of its usual cost had better be stifled by anyone who wants to stay out of trouble with the law, Mason says.

"Most anything you buy off the street is hot," Mason warns. And courts have ruled that a ridiculously low purchase price is evidence that the buyer knew the item was stolen. In a case like this, the charge would be receiving stolen property.

However, police don't even have to prove the stereo is stolen in order to send you to jail for a year. They can arrest you for possessing any item which has had its serial number or brand name altered, defaced, or removed. And a hot stereo, Mason says, is almost sure to have its serial number removed.

"YOU CAN'T always take the word of someone who claims he didn't steal the stereo himself," Mason warns. He added that police are taking advantage of the no-serial-number law to incarcerate suspected thieves when no proof of theft is available.

"We're trying to tell young people not to buy on the street for exactly this reason," Mason stressed.

The youthful police detective, who could pass for a high school student himself, tossed out an additional warning to car stereo burglars and prospective customers — don't try to pawn stolen goods.

IN THE first place, he underlined, pawnshops aren't supposed to accept any item with the serial number defaced or removed. And any item still equipped with its number is immediately registered at state and local crime prevention centers. If the number checks out with any article stolen anywhere in California, it will mean certain arrest for the unwary thief.

Detective Mason speaks from unfortunate experience when he delves into the realities of car burglary. If it hadn't been for a burglar alarm installed in his own car, Mason would have been relieved of his car stereo recently.

Mason said the would-be thief was smashing a window in his car late at night when the alarm went off and aroused neighbors.

HOW CAN car stereo owners protect their property? Mason offers the following suggestions:

- Always lock your car.
- Remove the stereo equipment at night and place it in the trunk.
- Equip your car with an alarm and place a sticker on the windshield warning would-be burglars of the alarm.

Prospective car stereo owners may also protect themselves from arrest by obtaining an official receipt for the item and making sure the stereo has its original serial numbers.

Write down the serial number and a description of your car stereo.

Indelibly mark the equipment with your initials.

Call police if you see someone selling car stereos on the street.

Always lock your car.

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Equip your car with an alarm and place a sticker on the windshield warning would-be burglars of the alarm.

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KISS FOR A QUEEN . . . Sharon Terrill, reigning Miss California, gets a peck from Mayor Albert Isen as he presents her with a framed resolution on behalf of the Torrance City Council. The resolution honors the beauty contest winner for representing Torrance in the Miss California and Miss America Pageants. Sharon also received council praise for capturing a \$1,000 talent award at the Miss America Pageant. Mrs. Isen gave her permission for the congratulatory gesture! (Press-Herald photo)

Charter Group Asks Extension

The Charter Review Committee has informed the City Council that it will not be able to throw together a final report by Dec. 31, the deadline established by the Council.

In a memo to the Council, Charter Review Committee Chairman Larry Bowman said that his committee is in the process of considering all points that have been raised since the submission of a tentative draft to the public in October.

Bowman asked that a meeting be arranged between his committee and the charter review subcommittee of the Council in order that the Council may be informed of the current status of committee work. Members of the Council committee are Councilman William Uerkwitz, chairman; Mayor Albert Isen and Councilman Donald E. Wilson.

No date for the meeting has been set. The Charter Review Committee, which has been revising the Torrance City Charter for the past two years, was recently ordered by the Council to submit a final report by Dec. 31 and then consider itself dissolved.

The committee's preliminary draft of the charter gave the city manager the power to hire and fire department heads without the consent of the Civil Service Commission.

Teenagers have been invited to attend the Torrance Police Officers' Association annual Christmas Benefit Dance Saturday from 8 to 11 p.m. at the Grand Theater in downtown Torrance.

Admission will be 50 cents worth of canned goods suitable for use at a Christmas dinner. The food will be donated to needy families in the community prior to Christmas Day.

Police are asking local residents to provide them with names of area families who are in genuine need through misfortune.

Suitable dress for the benefit dance will be dress shirts and ties for the boys and dresses or school clothes for the girls.

Providing music for the event will be the Symbols of Time, a local rock 'n' roll group. Trophies will be awarded to winners of the dance contest.

Dance for Teenagers Saturday

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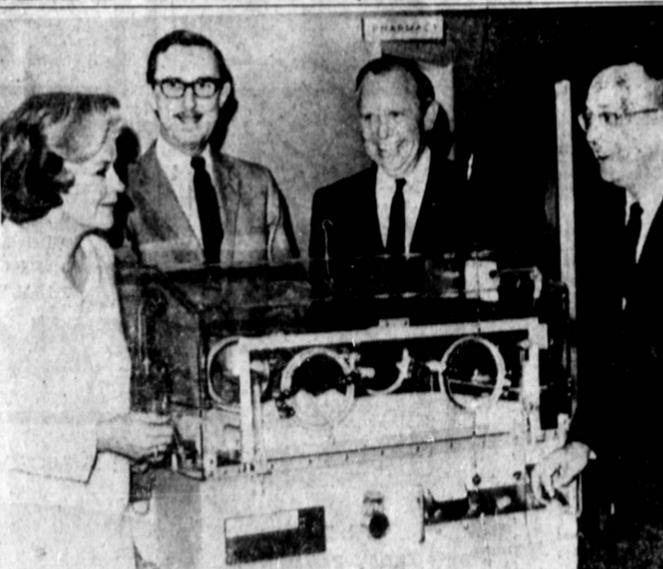
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FOR HOSPITAL—Rosemary DeCamp Shidler expresses appreciation on behalf of directors of Torrance Memorial Hospital as she accepts a vital Isolette machine from members of the Palos Verdes Sertoma Club. Making the presentation are Kenneth F. Spencer (right), president of the Sertoma Club, and George Bolton (second from right), vice president of the club. Frank M. Cooper, administrator of the hospital, was on hand to represent the hospital staff. Mrs. Shidler, a member of the hospital board, is the mother of four daughters—and all were delivered at the hospital. Spencer is president of Beverly Hills Federal Savings Loan Association.

\$6,472 Donated By Company

With an employee contribution of \$6,472.50 and a corporate gift of \$700, the Foods Company market chain is one of the most outstanding contributors to the United Crusade drive in the Harbor area.

The eight stores and main office had set a total goal of \$2,000, based on the fact that their highest contribution in the past had been \$1,626 in 1965.

Enthusiasm was built up as store managers and United Crusade chairmen from each store met with Joseph M. Wilson, a retired Shell Oil executive on loan to United Crusade for three months.

Wilson showed a film depicting the many services made possible by United Crusade funds and explained how Foods Company employees could do their part through payroll deductions.

When employees were contacted, the response was overwhelming. Three of the stores reached 100 per cent of their Fair Share goal, which means that more than 75 per cent of the employees pledged to give one hour's pay each month. This qualified those stores for Gold Awards.

Silver Awards were earned by three other stores, in which 60 per cent or more of the employees pledged a Fair Share gift. The awards will be presented at the Harbor Area Awards Banquet in the spring.

Participants of the excursion will not have to worry about parking or seating problems as the transit system will provide bus transportation and a grandstand seat. The cost for the trip is \$9.25 per person.

Tickets can be secured at the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, 1510 Cravens Ave.

THE BUS Department recently initiated a bus service for college students attending Dominguez Hills State College. Presently, two trips are made each way from Torrance to the college, with an expansion expected in the near future.

Participants of the excursion will not have to worry about parking or seating problems as the transit system will provide bus transportation and a grandstand seat. The cost for the trip is \$9.25 per person.

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